

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9663

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04704

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON MARCH 25, LEONORE STORAR, HEAD COMMONWEALTH CO-ORDINATION DEPARTMENT AT FCO, SAID BRITISH LOOKING FORWARD TO A RELAXED AND PRO-DUCTIVE MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT KINGSTON. BRITISH CONFIDENT PRIME MINISTER MANLEY WILL PLAY EFFECTIVE ROLE IN RUNNING CONFERENCE AND STORAR NOTED MANLEY HAS BEEN TALKING WITH CANADIANS, WHO WERE HOSTS AT SUCCESSFUL 1973 MEETING.

2. IN ADDITION TO ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH EXPECTED TO DOM-
INATE CONFERENCE (BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY), STORAR SAID
AGENDA ITEMS WILL BE BROAD AND WITHOUT ADVANCE CO-ORDINA-
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TION AMONG PARTICIPANTS. FCO EXPECTING PRIME MINISTER
WILSON AND FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TO MAKE STRONG AP-

PEAL TO SAVE UN BY ENDING CONFRONTATION TACTICS, SLOGAN-
EERING AND RESOLUTIONS WHICH HAVE LITTLE HOPE OF BEING
IMPLEMENTED.

3. BRITISH ANTICIPATE SRI LANKA WILL RAISE INDIAN OCEAN
PEACE ZONE AND DIEGO GARCIA. ALTHOUGH RHODESIA, NAMIBIA
AND APARTHEID ALSO ON AGENDA, BRITISH BELIEVE THAT BARRING
UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS, THESE ISSUES SHOULD NOT PROVIDE
DISAGREEMENT OR CONFRONTATION.

4. OTHER ITEMS ON AGENDA PREPARED BY COMMONWEALTH SEC GEN
ARE CHANGING POWER RELATIONS (UNDER WHICH JUST ABOUT ANY-
THING CAN BE DISCUSSED), TECHNIQUES OF GOVERNMENT (SUG-
GESTED BY CANADA), THE ROLE OF WOMEN (SUGGESTED BY
MAURITIUS), INTRA-COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS AND THE APPOINT-
MENT OF A NEW SEC GEN.

5. AS USUAL, MEETINGS WILL BE INFORMAL AND THERE WILL BE
NO EFFORT AT NEGOTIATIONS OR REACHING A COMMON POSITION
ON ANY ISSUE. ONLY CLOUD ON HORIZON IN STORAR'S VIEW
WOULD BE UNEXPECTED APPEARANCE BY PRESIDENT AMIN, WHICH
BRITISH, AS WELL AS OTHERS, WOULD OBVIOUSLY DEPLORE.

6. AS AGENDA IS CONFIDENTIAL AND BRITISH NOT CO-ORDINAT-
ING THEIR POSITION WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS, FOREGOING
SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED OUTSIDE USG.

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